

AF FORM 112—PART I

APPROVED 1 JUL 54

COUNTRY GERMANY		REPORT NO. 52HD-55-29A	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT Forced Labor Camp in VORKUTA			
AREA REPORTED ON VORKUTA, USSR		FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW (USAFE)	
DATE OF REPORT 11 Jan 55	DATE OF INFORMATION Sep 50 - Jun 53		EVALUATION F-6
PREPARED BY (Officer) FRANK J. GUILFOYLE, Major, USAF		SOURCE 220971	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) (BAIR 1S)			
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclusions at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)			
I. PREAMBLE: From Sep 50 to Jun 53 S was imprisoned in a forced labor camp in VORKUTA (6730N-6400E). S could not recall the camp number, but stated that it was generally known as mine #29 since all inhabitants of this camp worked in mine #29. S worked as a miner until Apr 51 and from then until Mar 53 as compressor operator. All info contained in this Report is based on S's own observations unless otherwise stated. II. FORCED LABOR CAMP VORKUTA: S estimated that 3,000 to 3,200 inmates were in this camp of mine #29. As far as S knew they were all imprisoned for political reasons. It was commonly known that 271 Germans were in the camp. S estimated that it furthermore housed 2,800 Russians, 30-35 Lithuanians, 12 Estonians, 45 Latvians, 20 Poles, six Czechs, five Koreans, six to seven Hungarians, 15 Austrians, and 20 Rumanians. It was generally known in the camp that there were three Japanese also. One American was in this camp. All of the inmates worked in coal mine #29 except for some invalids who swept roads, cleaned bldgs, etc., in the camp. The American in the camp was always addressed or spoken of as "AMI". His first name was HARRY, his last name sounded somewhat like WATERWOLF. He spoke Russian almost fluently and also knew a little of German. He was thus able to talk to S who spoke a little English. HARRY stayed in this camp until Jul 51 and was then transferred to the camp in which prisoners from coal mines #12, 14, and 16, were interned. A prisoner released from this camp whom S met in MOSKVA (5545N-3735E) told him that HARRY was still there. S remembered the following about HARRY: His parents were Americans and lived in Japan where HARRY was born. HARRY was a member of a control board which examined the aircrash between an American aircraft and a Soviet aircraft in the SZG in the Area of BERLIN (5230N-1330E). S could not recall why and how HARRY was imprisoned. He told S that he was brought from BERLIN to MOSKVA where he was added to S's transport going to VORKUTA. HARRY was about 1.85 m tall, about 28 years old, of very slender figure, had dark blue eyes, and very thin blond hair. He had bad teeth. The left side of his face seemed to be paralyzed since the facing skin looked as if it was pulled down so that the red of his eye was visible. He told S that this was from an aircrash. His arms and his chest were tattooed. HARRY seemed to be very strong since he was often involved in scuffles, but was never hurt. He was in the hospital quite frequently and S knew from hearsay that this was because of tuberculosis. 28 of the 271 Germans in this camp were released together with S, but none of them knew for what reason since they were all sentenced to more years of forced labor as they No incls.			
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had served so far. Nine of the Germans were separated from the others in MOSKVA and the remaining 19 supposed that they were returned to VORKUTA for unknown reasons. All of the Hungarians and Rumanians in this camp left it together with the Germans, but were separated from their transport in MOSKVA. S closely knew two Latvians with whom he lived in the same barrack in the camp. One was a guy by the name of Will GRIMMBERGS whose profession was that of an electro-engineer. He was from RIGA (5657N-2409E) and had worked for the German Army which was the reason for his imprisonment. He was 47 years old, about 1.7 m tall, of very slim and bowed figure, had grey hair at the sides of his head but was bald on top. He told S that when he was taken to VORKUTA, his wife, two boys and his daughter were at the same time taken to Siberia. They were allowed to write to one another about once every half year. He was thus able to find out that these people worked in the woods and on Kolchoses. The addresses consisted of simply a number so that no one knew the exact location of the other one. This was the same with another Latvian whose name was Karlis ABELE. He was 44 years old, about 1.74 m tall, of slender figure with little blond hair. Same as GRIMMBERGS he was an electro-engineer and had worked for the German Army. Unknown members of his family were in Siberia. Both remained in this camp when S left there. The treatment of the forced laborers changed a little during 1951. The prisoners were issued a blanket, the medical treatment became better and Russian drugs were available. Also they were able to make some money when working over their norm. The work norm per two men was shovelling of 20 tons of coal to a conveyor over a distance of 4-6 m, by means of a shovel with a short handle holding about 30 kg. This could only be done by kneeling or laying on the ground in the mine. Any amount over this norm was rewarded. The prisoner reached usually 21-22 tons per day and got 10-15 Rubels each month. Two thirds of the money were usually paid to the brigadier who in turn paid the blatnois; one or two of them were usually in each brigade and who did absolutely no work. It was furthermore forbidden to the brigadier to mistreat prisoners and for them to beat one another. Each inmate had to sign a statement saying that if he would beat someone to death he would be shot. Until then it happened quite often that a brigadier had killed one of the prisoners by hitting him with a shovel or a crowbar. It was commonly known in the camp that there were about 40-50 blatnois in the camp. They were recognizable by the good clothes they wore compared to the other prisoners. They wore boots, wadding-lined clothes and black fur caps which they had made in the tailor shop and shoe-maker shop in the camp. It was generally known that they were imprisoned for unknown political reasons. One day probably in Feb 51, the blatnois were called out of the camp and placed in front of the camp gate. The camp commander asked them who wanted to work and about four or five of them stepped aside. They were sent back into the camp. Only seconds later the remaining others were shot as they were standing, with machine guns mounted on guard towers and in the guardhouse. From old camp inmates S heard that in 1949 two thirds of the prisoners while off shift overran the guards, took their weapons, locked up guards and officers, and escaped. About one tenth of the two thirds did not participate. After the Russians had freed themselves they called for aircraft and an unknown number of the so-called NAEHMASCHINEN (Sewing Machines "Bedcheck Charley") followed the escaped prisoners and shot them from the air. The remaining one tenth that had not participated were shot in the camp the same day. The one third of the camp working in the mine were not punished at all. A loudspeaker was installed in each barrack in the camp. Except for about one half hour a day it was continuously running day and night. Classical music was broadcast most of the time. S could not exactly understand the propaganda broadcast since he only spoke a fair so-called "Camp Russian". But he remembered hearing propaganda against the USA saying that the USA were warmongers and that heavy industry of the USA exploited the little man. They also reported of rapes of German and Austrian women by Americans. When S left the camp

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in Jun 53, one of the Russians (S knew from hearsay that he used to work in the ministry for agriculture) told S in German to tell the West that if there should be another war, not to drop bombs in the USSR, but food and weapons for prisoners who would sure conquer MOSKVA and then let the West come in. S said that this man looked very intelligent and when talking to S he was surrounded by an unknown number of other Russians all looking intelligent who nodded at S with their heads or twinkled with their eyes. In general it was the opinion of the forced laborers that only a new war could free them and S stated that they were actually waiting to see western armies soon.


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